

In the Claims:

Claim 1 (Original) Drain suitable for draining a human or animal antrum, organ or tissue, characterized in that it comprises an elastic biocompatible, biodegradable synthetic polymer, which polymer has at least one softening point (glass transition temperature) of at most mammalian body temperature.

Claim 2 (Original) Drain according to claim 1, which essentially entirely consists of said synthetic biodegradable polymer.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented) Drain according to claim 1, wherein the polymer has at least one softening point (glass transition temperature) of at most 37-°C.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented) Drain according to claim 1, wherein the biodegradable polymer comprises a polyester, polycarbonate, polyester-carbonate, polyanhydride, polyurethane and/or polyamide which are optionally combined with polyether groups.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented) Drain according to claim 4, wherein:

the polyester is selected from lactide polyester, ϵ -caprolactone polyester, glycolide polyester, or copolymers thereof; and/or

the polyether is selected from polyethyleneglycol, polypropyleneglycol, copolymers thereof and polytetramethyleneoxide (PTMO).

Claim 6 (Original) Drain according to claim 5, wherein the polyester is a random DL-Lactide- ϵ -caprolactone copolyester, preferably having a lactide content of 20-75 mol %, more preferably 55-70 mol%, most preferably 62-69 mol%.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented) Drain according to claim 6, wherein the fraction of the L-enantiomer or the D-enantiomer of the lactide is from 65-95 mol%, preferably from 70-90 mol%, more preferably about 85 mol%.

Claim 8 (Original) Drain according to claim 4, wherein the polyester, polyester-carbonate and/or polyanhydride is a segmented or block copolymer with randomly or alternating segments or blocks and consisting of at least two blocks with different composition.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) Drain according to claim 8, wherein the segments or blocks are phase separated hard and soft segments, characterized by at least two phase transitions, one of them being a glass transition temperature lower than 37-°C, the other a glass transition temperature or melting temperature higher than 37-°C.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented) Drain according to claim 8, wherein the segments or blocks forming the low temperature transition phase are composed of pre-polymers of (mixtures of) cyclic or non-cyclic monomers lactide, glycolide, ϵ -caprolactone, δ -valerolactone, trimethylenecarbonate, tetramethylenecarbonate, 1,5-dioxepane-2-one, para-dioxanone and/or hydroxyalkanoic acid.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented) Drains according to claim 8, wherein the copolymer or pre-polymers are obtained by a ring opening polymerization initiated by a diol or di-acid compound.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented) Drains according to claim 8, wherein the pre-polymers forming the segments are linked by a difunctional aliphatic compound, preferably a diisocyanate, more preferably 1,4-butanediisocyanate.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented) Drain according to claim 9, wherein the segment or block with highest temperature phase transition (hard segment or block) is formed by poly-caprolactone, poly-valerolactone, poly-lactide, poly (lactide-glycolide), poly-*para*-dioxanone, poly (hydroxybutyric acid), polysebacic acid, poly(dodecanedioic anhydride) pre-polymers, and combinations thereof.

Claim 14 (Original) Drain according to claim 4, wherein the biodegradable polymer comprises a polyurethane, which biodegradable polymer is a phase separated copolymer with a polyester,

polyester-carbonate and/or polycarbonate soft segment and a urethane hard segment with uniform block length.

Claim 15 (Original) Drain according to claim 14, wherein the polyurethane is formed by diisocyanate linked pre-polymer and diol components having the formula $[-A-B-CB-]_n$, wherein A denotes the pre-polymer moiety, B denotes the diisocyanate moiety, C denotes the diol moiety, having a uniform block length; and n represents an integer larger than 1.

Claim 16 (Original) Drain according to claim 15, wherein the diol component is a linear aliphatic diol (X) with general structure $HO-(CH_2)_n-OH$ with $n = 2-8$ or $HO-(CH_2CH_2-O-CH_2CH_2)_n-OH$ with $n = 2-8$ or the diol (XYX) is a reaction product of two moles of the diol (X) with said diisocyanate.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented) Drain according to claim 15, wherein the diisocyanate is 1,4-butanediisocyanate.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented) Drain according to claim 15, wherein the pre-polymer is formed by ring opening polymerization initiated by a diol or polyethyleneglycol compound of the cyclic monomers lactide, glycolide, ϵ -caprolactone, δ -valerolactone, trimethylenecarbonate, tetramethylenecarbonate, 1,5-dioxepane-2-one and/or para-dioxanone.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented) Drain according to claim 14, wherein the polyester is a poly(DL-lactide- ϵ -caprolactone) and the diol compound is the reaction product of two moles of 1,4-butanediol and one mole of 1,4-butanediisocyanate.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented) Drain according to claim 14, wherein the polyester is a poly(DL-lactide- ϵ -caprolactone) and the diol compound is the reaction product of two moles of diethyleneglycol and one mole of 1,4-butanediisocyanate.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented) Drain according to claim 14, wherein the soft segment is a combination of a pre-polymer with a polyether pre-polymer, preferably a polyethyleneglycol.

Claim 22 (Original) Drain according to claim 21 wherein the polyethyleneglycol has a molecular weight of 1500.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented) Drain according to claim 14, wherein the polyurethane contains 1-25 wt.% polyethyleneglycol, preferably 5-15%, being present as a pre-polymer initiator, and the polyester is a poly(DL-lactide-ε-caprolactone) and the diol compound is the reaction product of two moles of 1,4-butanediol and one mole of 1,4-butanediisocyanate.

Claim 24 (Original) Drain according to claim 23, wherein the polyethyleneglycol has a molecular weight of 1000.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented) Drain according to claim 1, wherein the polymer comprises a polyurethane and a polyester, polycarbonate or a polycarbonate, obtainable by solution blending.

Claim 26 (Original) Drain according to claim 25, wherein the polyurethane is based on a DL-lactide-ε-caprolactone soft segment pre-polymer and the polyester is a poly(DLlactide-ε-caprolactone) copolymer.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented) Drain according to claim 1, wherein said polymer is loaded with radiopaque fillers and/or pharmaceutical components such as antibiotics, anti-inflammatory agents, peptides and proteins.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented) Drain according to claim 1, which is provided with perforations.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented) Nasal drain according to claim 1.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented) Drain, particularly a nasal drain, according to claim 1, having a wall thickness of 0.05-5.0 mm.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented) Drain according to claim 1, having a total length of 3-300 mm.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented) Drain according to claim 1, having an outer diameter of 0.5-50 mm.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented) Drain according to claim 1, comprising a funnel shaped element on at least one end.

Claim 34 (Original) Drain according to claim 33, having a funnel length of 2-20 mm and preferably a funnel diameter of 3-30 mm.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented) Drain according to claim 1, which is obtainable by dip-coating or spray coating of a polymer solution on a mandrel or extrusion of a polymer.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented) Use of a drain according to claim 21 used for performing coloanal anastomosis.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented) Method for treating a disorder associated with dysfunction of natural drainage of body fluids from an antrum, organ or tissue comprising introducing a drain according to claim 1 in said antrum, organ or tissue, such that said antrum, organ or tissue is connected with the environment or another location within the body, after which said drain degrades over time and degradation products of said drain are cleared through the digestive channel and/or said antrum, organ or tissue and/or absorbed and subsequently metabolized and/or secreted by the body.

Claim 38 (Original) Method according to claim 37, wherein said disorder is selected from (chronic) sinusitis, inflammation of the middle ear, liver disorders, disorders of the gastrointestinal tract, tear duct disorder, surgical wound drainage, and thoracic disorder.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 37, wherein said drain is introduced in said antrum using at least one of: sealant; suture; and staple.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented) Use of a drain according to claim 1 in the preparation of a medicament or kit for the treatment of a disorder as defined in claim 37.